

HOUSE BILL NO. 690

INTRODUCED BY G. GUTSCHE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISEASE CLUSTER IDENTIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DUTIES CONCERNING DISEASE CLUSTERS."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Disease cluster identification -- department duty to report -- rulemaking. (1) The department shall adopt a protocol by administrative rule to identify disease clusters through any program in the department that provides for reporting of health events, such as those for environmental public health tracking, communicable diseases, or birth outcomes, taking particular care to identify disease clusters in dispersed and small populations of people and in populations of infants and children.

(2) Upon identifying a disease cluster, the department shall inform the local board of health and the governing body of the jurisdiction in which the disease cluster was identified in order to fulfill the requirements in 50-1-202(2).

(3) For the purposes of this section, the term "disease cluster" means an aggregation of health events that are grouped together in time and space and that are reported to a public health department or occurrences of seemingly unexpected diseases for which no immediately apparent recognized cause exists.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 50, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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